

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1. A method for securing a computer connected to an  
2 insecure network when the computer is not utilizing the insecure network,  
3 wherein the computer is installed with a program managing the connection  
4 with the insecure network, the method comprising the steps of:

5                 determining whether the computer is active;  
6                 deactivating the computer from the insecure network when it is  
7 determined that the computer is inactive; and,  
8                 waiting for a predefined time period to repeat the method.

1           2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the  
2 step of displaying the current status of the insecure network on the computer.

1           3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3                 obtaining an address for the network card;  
4                 obtaining an address for an interface connected to the insecure  
5 network using the obtained address of the network card; and,  
6                 obtaining the status of the obtained address of the interface.

1           4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said step of  
2 obtaining an address further comprises the steps of:

3                 initializing any sockets support in the program managing the  
4 insecure connection;

5                 loading a driver having an object identifier of the program  
6 managing the insecure connection;

7                 obtaining an address for the initialization function and an address  
8 for the query function from the program; and,

9                 calling the initialization function to initialize the driver.

1               5.     The method according to claim 4 wherein said step of  
2 obtaining an address for an interface connected to the insecure network further  
3 comprises the steps of:

4               determining a total number of interface(s) using the obtained  
5 address of the network card; and,

6               storing the obtained total number of interface(s) in temporary  
7 memory.

1               6.     The method according to claim 5 wherein said step of  
2 obtaining the status of each obtained address of the interface further comprises  
3 the steps of:

4               reading the status of the obtained address of the interface; and,

5               saving the obtained address of the interface with the read status  
6 to memory.

1               7.     The method according to claim 3 wherein said step of  
2 deactivating the computer from the insecure network further comprises the step  
3 of setting each obtained address of the interface to an inactive status.

1               8.     The method according to claim 1 further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3               determining whether there is a network reactivation request; and,  
4               reactivating the computer on the insecure network when there is a  
5 network reactivation request.

1               9.     The method according to claim 1 further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3               determining whether there is a network deactivation request; and,  
4               deactivating the computer from the insecure network when there  
5 is a network deactivation request.

1           10. The method according to claim 3 wherein prior said step  
2 of determining whether the computer is active further comprises the steps of:

3                 determining whether the obtained address of the interface  
4 connected to the insecure network has an active status; and,

5                 waiting for a predefined time period to repeat the method when  
6 the obtained address of the interface has a nonactive status.

1           11. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of  
2 determining whether the computer is active further comprises the steps of:

3                 determining whether there is any active network process currently  
4 running via the insecure network when it is determined that the computer is  
5 active;

6                 deactivating the computer from the insecure network when it is  
7 determined that there is no active network process currently running via the  
8 insecure network; and,

9                 waiting for a predefined time period to repeat the method when it  
10 is determined that there is an active network process currently running via the  
11 insecure network.

1           12. The method according to claim 11 wherein said step of  
2 determining whether there is any active network process currently running  
3 further comprises the steps of:

4                 obtaining an address for the network card;

5                 obtaining an address for an interface connected to the insecure  
6 network using the obtained address of the network card;

7                 reading an old number of received and transmitted bytes over the  
8 obtained address of the interface;

9                 changing the obtained address of the interface to an address for  
10 obtaining the number of bytes received;

11                   reading the number of bytes received;  
12                   saving the read number of bytes received as a new number;  
13                   the obtained address of the interface to an address for obtaining  
14                   the number of bytes transmitted;  
15                   reading the number of bytes transmitted;  
16                   saving the read number of bytes transmitted as a new number;  
17                   determining whether the old numbers of received and transmitted  
18                   bytes equal to the new numbers of received and transmitted bytes;  
19                   returning a determination that an active network process is  
20                   currently active when the old numbers do not equal the new numbers; and,  
21                   returning a determination that no active network process is  
22                   currently running when the old numbers equal the new numbers.

23                 13. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of  
24                 determining whether the computer is active is performed by a step of  
25                 determining whether the screen saver is activated on the computer.

1                 14. The method according to claim 13 wherein said step of  
2                 determining whether the screen saver is activated further comprises the step of  
3                 determining the current version of a Microsoft Windows® operating system  
4                 installed on the computer.

1                 15. The method according to claim 14 wherein when the  
2                 current version of Microsoft Windows® is not Windows NT, the method  
3                 further comprising the steps of:

4                   executing the findwindow function to find windowsscreensaver;  
5                   determining whether the windowsscreensaver is found by the  
6                   findwindow function;  
7                   returning a determination that the screen saver is active when the  
8                   windowsscreensaver is found; and,

9                   returning a determination that the screen saver is not active when  
10          the windowsscreensaver is not found.

1                 16. The method according to claim 14 wherein when the  
2          current version of Microsoft Windows® is Windows NT version 4.0 or later,  
3          the method further comprising the steps of:

4                 executing a systemparametersinfo function to find  
5          getscreensaverrunning;

6                 determining whether the getscreensaverrunning is found by the  
7          systemparametersinfo function;

8                 returning a determination that the screen saver is active when the  
9          getscreensaverrunning is found; and,

10                 returning a determination that the screen saver is not active when  
11          the getscreensaverrunning is not found.

1                 17. The method according to claim 14 wherein when the  
2          current version of Microsoft Windows® is Windows NT version 4.0 or older,  
3          the method further comprising the steps of:

4                 opening a desktop of the computer where the screen saver runs  
5          on;

6                 determining whether opening the desktop is successful;

7                 returning a determination that the screen saver is active when the  
8          opening of the desktop is successful;

9                 determining whether access to the desktop has been denied when  
10          the opening of the desktop is not successful;

11                 returning a determination that the screen saver is not active when  
12          access to the desktop has not been denied; and,

13                 returning a determination that the screen saver is active when the  
14          access to the desktop has not been denied.

1           18. A system for securing a computer connected to an insecure  
2 network when the computer is not utilizing the insecure network, wherein the  
3 computer is installed with a program managing the connection with the  
4 insecure network, the system comprising:

5                 means for determining whether the computer is active;

6                 means for deactivating the computer from the insecure network  
7 when it is determined that the computer is inactive; and,

8                 means for waiting for a predefined time period to repeat the  
9 method.

1           19. A computer program product comprising a computer  
2 readable code stored on a computer readable medium that, when executed, the  
3 computer program product causes a computer to:

4                 determine whether the computer is active;

5                 deactivate the computer from the insecure network when it is  
6 determined that the computer is inactive; and,

7                 wait for a predefined time period to repeat the method.